

1959 the mayoralty election, a separate off-year election, attracted 228,000 votes for mayor, is that correct?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I would never dispute your figures to save some time. My problem is, I have two different charts, one for the county level below, and one for governor, above, and I am trying to relate them.

DELEGATE CHABOT: I am working from those.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I accept your figures.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: You have spoken of the phenomenon of voter fall-off when the election is in an odd-numbered year, an off-year, where you do not have statewide elections to attract people to the polls. You have in those charts also figures for several counties; at least five counties, as I see them, are represented in all charts, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Garrett, Montgomery, Prince George's. I wonder if you could give us the figure of voter fall-off when you have both the county officials and governor elected in the same year. What is the difference between the votes cast for the top state official, governor, and the votes cast for top county official, county council or county executive or board of commissioners as the case may be?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: As I say, I am talking now in terms of averages over a ten-year period. The estimate given by Dr. Spencer was that on the local level you had a response ranging from 55 percent to 60 and that on the gubernatorial level, it went from 60 to 70, and that on the presidential it went above that.

Obviously there are situations where very heated election, in either Baltimore City or Baltimore County, or any county for that matter, held with a less than heated election on the state level, will produce a higher percentage of response on the higher level than it does on the lower level. No doubt about that. I certainly concede that.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Delegate Byrnes, let us take one thing at a time.

In all of these five counties in all of the three general elections, the figures which were distributed at your request to you and also to the rest of the members of our Committee, indicate what the vote was at one and the same time, with the same electorate going out to the polls. How many of those who voted for governor bothered to continue to vote for their top county officials when they were already at the polls? What was the voter drop-off in general?

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Byrnes.

DELEGATE BYRNES: Do you want to know for each county? I would suggest the answer to that is approximately 12 to 15 per cent.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Delegate Byrnes, could we relate that approximately 12 to 15 percent drop-off when people are already in the polling place to what the figures were when they had to go at a separate time to vote for mayor in Baltimore City? What sort of drop-off was there then? Was it as much as the 12 to 15 per cent on the average?

DELEGATE BYRNES: My understanding is that it was substantially more. It ranged down to 20 or 25 per cent less, in some cases in Baltimore City. We can go through each one. Fifty-four per cent in 1959, fifty-five per cent in 1963. That is all I have.

DELEGATE J. CLARK (presiding): Delegate Chabot.

DELEGATE CHABOT: Perhaps I did not make myself clear or I did not understand your previous answers. I thought that you had indicated to me that instead of a drop-off from governor to mayor in each of the last four elections in Baltimore, in two of those sets of elections, 1958-1959 and 1962-1963 there was actually an increase in the vote as you went from governor to mayor, is that not correct?

DELEGATE BYRNES: On two occasions we had this.

DELEGATE CHABOT: On two occasions we had increases and on two occasions we had decreases?

DELEGATE BYRNES: Yes.

DELEGATE CHABOT: So do you still insist that the average drop-off from governor to mayor was as you had indicated, about 20 per cent in Baltimore City?